

# Children's Education Program

Board Report  
2018-2019

The performances by Fort Worth Symphony, Texas Ballet Theater, Stage West, Adam Golka and the Cliburn, and the UNT One O' Clock Lab Band this year were all excellent, of course. We have been fortunate that students and teachers have embraced each program with grand enthusiasm and waiting lists of schools wanting to attend our programs are long. We have no more room, as expected, to accommodate them. In fact, with *Nutcracker* and *Romeo and Juliet*, we chose to list them on our website but not open them for enrollment, since the registrations would have overwhelmed the system. Our first allegiance remains to the Fort Worth ISD public schools and we have been told by their administrators that our partnership is a valuable part of their students' growth.

We all consider the school district's C rating a shared responsibility and the students' futures—both academically and as students of the performing arts—a concern for all of us. We take the curriculum associated with each program seriously and believe that programs such as *Ellis Island* and *Romeo and Juliet* often give students a different perspective and a better understanding of the material studied. Years ago, we called the Bass Performance Hall a giant classroom where students could be introduced to and learn new things; that is truer today. It gives us all great joy when high school students cheer at the end of a Shakespeare play, or when fifth graders are prompted by the *Ellis Island* program to investigate their own histories.

It may seem like we say it every year, but this truly *was* the most successful year of the summer camps: all were attended by students who were excited to be here and were here to learn, as well as have fun. Many students value the camps and all they have to offer, and it is obvious by their participation and positive attitudes. In the evaluations several students said they wanted the camps to be longer. The Theater Tech Camp was led by Debbie Barr Truitt, who has worked for ballet and theater companies around the state for many years. She brought a whole new level of experience and learning to the camp, and we are currently looking for ways to expand the opportunities for those theater tech students throughout the year.

The students who attended the band master class camp were some of the most focused--one might even say driven--students we have ever seen. They listened to every suggestion and constantly took notes in their music. They obviously knew what an extraordinary opportunity this was. As one band director wrote, "The Bass Hall masterclasses have addressed the knowledge gap and given our student musicians the same head start as their suburban counterparts. The guest artists have inspired our students with techniques and concepts tailored to their specific instruments and music. Empowering our student leaders with the knowledge and skills to tackle this music is already beginning to positively impact every student in our band program." Another band director said it had been the most powerful experience we had offered students in all our years of working with students, and they were clamoring for a follow-up session. This kind of response is heartwarming, but it always makes us want to do more; there is great need in Fort Worth.

It is gratifying to offer new, authentic learning experiences to deserving students of all ages and see their enthusiastic response. You, through your generosity, leadership and continual support, have built an education program you should be proud of and which is making a difference in Fort Worth. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Buratto, September 19, 2019

## **Children's Education Program 2018-2019**

*During the 2018-2019 season our Children's Education Program provided:*

Seven different programs, totaling 40 performances

- 10,194 First Grade students and teachers attended "Once Upon a Tale"
- 13,702 Second Grade students and teachers attended *Peter and the Wolf*
- 10,605 Third Grade students and teachers attended *The Nutcracker*
- 9,670 Fourth Grade students and teachers attended "Van Cliburn: An American Hero"
- 10,598 Fifth Grade students and teachers attended *Ellis Island: The Dream of America*
- 3,403 Band students and teachers attended One O 'Clock Lab Band in Concert
- 7,104 English students and teachers attended *Romeo and Juliet*
- 65,276 Total Attendance students and teachers to be used in programs

1,821 Students and teachers participated in Pre-Performance Enrichment Sessions  
4 CEP Awards [Rosenthal Student, Bayard Friedman Teacher, Perry Bass

Fellowship,

- Broadway at the Bass Theater]

- 263 students attended the high school choral camp
- 92 students attended the high school percussion camp
- 202 students attended the middle school choral camp
- 12 students attended the theater tech camp
- 495 students attended the high school band master class camp
- 1064 students attended a Summer Camp at Bass Hall in 2019